

Resilience Peer Network

December 17, 2025

*This project is carried out
with funding from the
Federation of Canadian
Municipalities' Green
Municipal Fund and the
Government of Canada.*



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How to use this resource

This resource has been co-created by everyone in attendance at the meeting on December 17, 2025.

This resource can be shared with people outside the network.

Resilience Peer Network Quarterly Meeting – December 17, 2025

Meeting Objectives:

- To facilitate a conversation and solicit feedback on the Cultural Safety Learning Companion and member needs regarding culturally safe risk assessments.

Highlights:

- Reviewed “What We Heard” at the Nov 13 meeting regarding common questions about DCRRA and initial thoughts on cultural safety and risk assessments.
- Conducted small group conversations and menti polls on the following questions:
 - What type of engagement processes and relationship building have you done with your neighboring local governments or Indigenous communities?
 - What **opportunities** have you experienced or anticipated when working together on risk assessment, adaptation, or emergency management?
 - What **challenges** have you experienced or anticipate when working together on risk assessment, adaptation, or emergency management?
 - If you had access to a resource supporting culturally safe collaboration in risk assessment, what would make it most useful for your work?
 - What would guidance to support local governments in thinking about equity look like?

What We Heard – Nov 13

- Clear direction on EDMA and HRVA expectations
- Clarity on how DCRRA and ClimateReady BC products can and cannot inform local assessments
- Support for meaningful and coordinated Indigenous engagement
- Clarification of roles and processes, especially between climate staff and emergency management staff
- Need for sustained funding and implementation support

What We Heard – Nov 13

What would make a resource on culturally safe collaboration with Indigenous communities most useful for your risk assessment work?

- Case studies or examples of non-colonial ways to meaningfully have engagement.
- Funding for Indigenous governing bodies and organizations to engage.
- The need to balance a 'non-prescriptive' approach with the need for some prescriptive support, or guardrails, including on how to ensure cultural safety is baked in the process.
- How to identify opportunities to benefit both the local nations, local gov'ts and other indigenous populations not connected with local self governing Nations.
- Include specific best practices direction on how to first reach out and begin the relationship with First Nations

What Was Said – Dec 17

Q: What type of engagement processes and relationship building have you done with your neighboring local governments or Indigenous communities?

Key Themes from Menti Poll and Discussion

- Meeting regularly to maintain relationships
- Building formal collaboration pathways
- Partnering on projects and funding to do the work together
- Using multiple engagement channels and learning opportunities to connect

Q: What type of engagement processes and relationship building have you done with your neighboring local governments or Indigenous communities?

A:

“City staff have recently attended cultural safety training hosted by the local band”

“We establish MoUs with FNs to collaborate on grant-funded projects and combine grant funds into one procurement process.”

“Our CAO has a monthly meeting with the leaders of all area First Nations.”

“Workshops, surveys, gatherings, delegations to Council, staff partnerships, regional training, you name it! We work very closely with First Nations and collaborate as much as possible.”

“Reached out to local First Nations in the first stages of project planning to foster trust, principles of partnership, and long-term success.”

“quarterly working group with local government climate staff in CRD region, similar groups also exist at regional level for emergency management.”

Q: What opportunities have you experienced or anticipate when working together on risk assessment, adaptation, or emergency management?

Key Themes from Menti Poll and Discussion

- Breaking down silos.
- Coordinated actions.
- Targeting vulnerable populations.
- Collaboration as part of existing work (not extra work).

Q: What opportunities have you experienced or anticipate when working together on risk assessment, adaptation, or emergency management?

A:

“Everything is connected - it allows all of us to work together to help bolster capacity, break down silos and achieve multiple outcomes at the same time.”

“No need to add new work - climate adaptation and resiliency is part of all the work every department is already doing so you can just join in and the wins stack up!”

“Identify actions to take that help address potential pain points other work groups have observed (hey I have the wrench you need to fix that thing over there!)”

“Targeting actions and services to the most vulnerable population.”

“opportunity to build the relationships and get to know folks doing the work”

“Climate adaptation work can begin where emergency recovery stops to help the emergency management team make lasting changes towards risk reduction.”

Q: What challenges have you experienced or anticipate in cross-government and Indigenous collaboration?

Key Themes from Menti Poll and Discussion

- Perception of from some stakeholders that collaboration as a “waste of time”
- Capacity constraints (in both LGs and Indigenous communities)
- Lack of coordination internally
- Metrics don’t capture relationship-building.
- Fear of doing engagement “wrong.”
- Emergency timelines clash with the slower pace needed for trust-building.
- Navigating multiple nations, languages, and urban Indigenous populations adds layers of complexity.

Q: What challenges have you experienced or anticipate in cross-government and Indigenous collaboration?

A:

“Scope creep - adaptation is so broad it's hard to pin down actual deliverables.”

“resistance against collaboration - the perception that collaboration is a 'waste of this person's time' - we see this even in how we pitch upcoming training or networking”

“How will you measure it? Metrics, evaluation and monitoring need to be decided on before the work begins.”

“Barriers in policy that prevent collaboration. Could be in collective agreements (not my job!) or in planning policy (zoning preventing land uses related to emergency management).”

“Deciding on scope with so many competing interests and timelines”

“Emergency mgmt dept is already off to the next emergency before the last one is wrapped up, so how do you pin them down to get the planning and adaptation work done to stop the disaster next time?”

Q: What would make a cultural safety learning companion most useful?

Key Themes from Menti Poll and Discussion

- Case studies and examples.
- Guided exercises for alignment on shared priorities, values, and methodology.
- Training, not just documents.
- Context-specific guidance for complex relationships – each region and nation has unique dynamics.
- Guidance should address partnerships beyond on-reserve communities.
- Information on grants that support Indigenous engagement and collaborative planning.
- Contacts for holders of vulnerability data (AHMA, BC Housing, health authorities etc)

Q: What would make a cultural safety learning companion most useful?

A:

“Specific to the Nation we hope to work with - to their culture, their language, their traditions, their people, their challenges. There is no one-size-fits-all resource for indigenous collaboration.”

“a resource that helps to dismantle the colonialist mindset around how we have traditionally worked in this space combined with clear examples of how a culturally safe process would look”

“A primer for non-transactional, relationship-based collaboration.”

“A guided exercise to help the Nation and the municipality find alignment in priorities so there's 'no new work', you're working together on projects already happening.”

“Training to use the resource effectively”

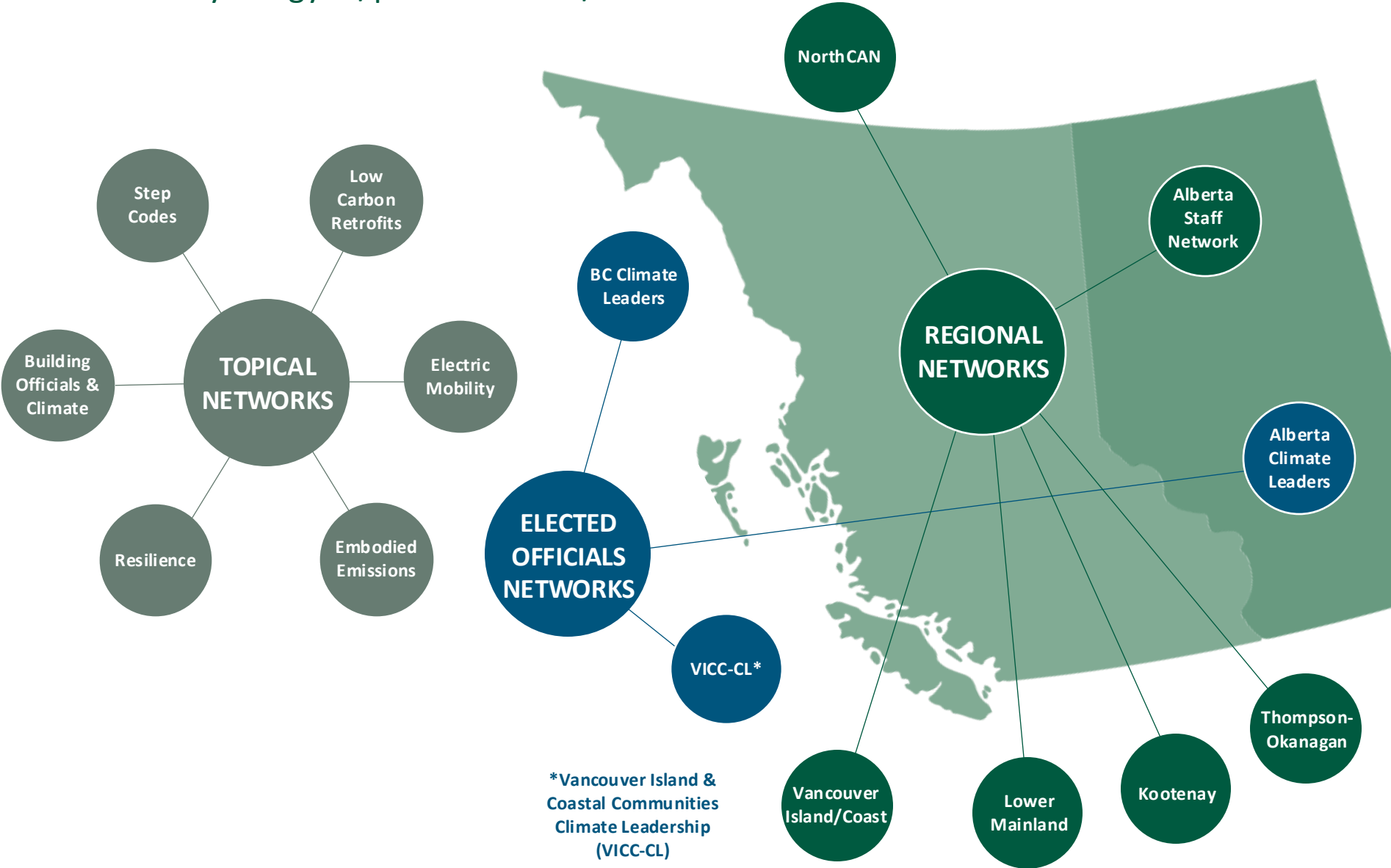
“would love to see an imaginative description of how a local government would work in a better way - so much of our struggle doing this work comes back to how the system is built”

Open Discussion & Next Steps

- The group explored integration of multiple risk assessments (municipal + Indigenous) and aligning priorities.
- Emphasis on adaptability and sensitivity in frameworks.
- Dave Aharonian provided timeline for EDMA guidance:
 - Regulation finalized by 2026; effective Jan 2027.
 - Practical, plain-language guidance targeted for summer 2026.

NETWORKS ECOSYSTEM

www.communityenergy.ca/peer-networks/



**Stay tuned and
reach out with questions:**
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